



**LOOK
INSIDE FOR
DETAILS:**

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of each month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

January 2008

Issue No. 442

Celebrating the Season with RARS!

Food and song filled the December RARS meeting in anticipation of the coming Christmas season. In keeping with tradition, this meeting featured the installation of club officers for the coming year, tables laden with member-supplied treats, and a festive presentation by The Encore Singers.



Special Announcements for January

- Due to the holiday, the RARS general meeting for January has been rescheduled from January 1st to **Tuesday, January 8th**. The meeting will be at the regular time (refreshments @ 7 pm; meeting @ 7:30 pm) and in the usual location (Forest Hills Baptist Church). The program will be a member meet 'n greet.
- Also, there will be no RARS monthly dinner in January. Our next dinner will be in February.

RARS Officers

President:

Selene Montgomery
KG4RMT
919.577.1254
kg4rmt@earthlink.net

Vice-President:

Richard Kelly-Crapse
KB4TKQ
919.577.6290
rwcrapse@att.com

Secretary:

Dick Orander
KD4ISC
919.469.5322
kd4isc@arrl.net

Treasurer:

Greg Seamster
KE4PAX
919.859.0029
ke4pax@arrl.net

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

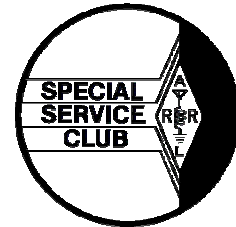
The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in

times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

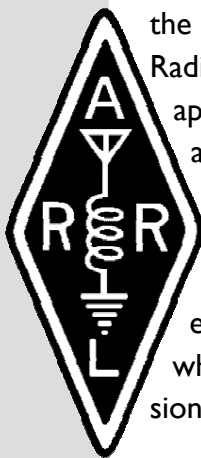
Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Due for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed ama-

teurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or the RARS website (RARS.org).



The Exciter



The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available.

Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those

of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

Editor:

Courtney Enzor
KI4HOS
courtney_enzor@
yahoo.com

President's Corner

Column by Selene Montgomery KG4RMT,
RARS President

Happy holiday greetings to all!

The past year has been one of challenges and opportunities for amateur radio. The Morse code requirement was dropped and hams, old and new, took a renewed interest in the hobby. Technological advances in the hobby will continue to come, but it will be up to the individual operator to continue his/her personal growth in the hobby through education and experience.

RARS, too, has faced challenges and changes. We lost our leader, Dick Bitner W8HYD, but his legacy lives on through the Dick Bitner Memorial Fund, which has already helped some young people to enter the hobby. The membership has responded with strong efforts, which have resulted in a successful RARSfest and Field Day, and many public service events reached their goals with the help of the ham community.

Our club can continue to grow, but only with your help. Keep yourself informed through our website, the *Exciter*, net announcements, and by being a participant in club meetings and projects. Spread the word to others and share

your enthusiasm with them. In this way, 2008 will be a year of growth and advancement for all of us.

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church
201 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm.
The meeting officially starts
at 7:30 pm.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family — feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

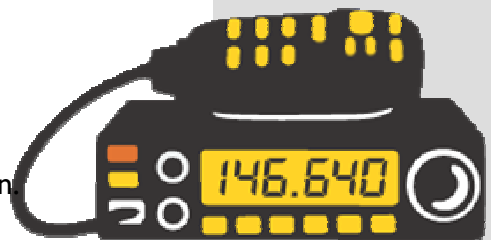
RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL)

146.64

444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check-in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.



Hamfest Calendar

January 12	Winston-Salem FirstFest www.w4nc.com/hamfestmemberinfo.html Winston-Salem, NC
February 2	FrostFest www.frostfest.com Richmond, VA
February 2	Hamfest http://www.wa4usn.org/ Charleston, SC
February 24	Winterfest http://www.viennawireless.org/winterfest.php Annandale, VA

Dates courtesy of *SERA Repeater Journal* and other sources. If you would like your event listed in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.

RARS Birthdays

Robert	N4GEB	1/1
Chuck	K4HF	1/4
Jerry	KE4TTS	1/4
John	N4YRD	1/8
Beth	KF4QMR	1/9
Jim	N4CAE	1/9
Katie	KG4IYR	1/10
Jim	KI4NQU	1/11
Evan	ZL2TFA	1/14
Johnnie	WA9SZL	1/19
Ashby	KB5ZIH	1/20
Ken	KI4OTO	1/28
Alan	AB4OZ	1/30
Cyndi	KD4ACW	1/30

November 2007 RARS Net Reports

RARS Two Meter Traffic/Ragchew Net
Check-ins: 389
Traffic: 29/25
Minutes: 675
Sessions: 30

Special Interest Nets
Check-ins: 85
Minutes: 620
Sessions: 12

Welcome to RARS!

Weaver Haney	KI4OFK
George Herring	No License

Upcoming RARS Programs

January: The January RARS meeting has been rescheduled from Jan. 1 to **Jan. 8**. It will be in our usual meeting location at Forest Hills Baptist Church.

We'll be having a member meet 'n greet! Come out and get to know your fellow club members!

SKYWARN Recognition Day 2007

**By Virginia Enzor NC4VA,
EC Central Carolina SKYWARN**

SKYWARN Recognition Day was created in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League to celebrate the contributions that SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service. On Saturday, December 1, from 0000–2400 UTC, SKYWARN operators visited NWS offices and contacted other radio operators across the world. Radio operators exchanged names, call signs, locations, signal reports, and a 1- or 2-word weather report.

Over 100 NWS offices across the country participated in the event, including the Raleigh National Weather and Central Carolina SKYWARN.

Using the callsign WX4NC, Central Carolina SKYWARN operated on Saturday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, making contacts on 2 meters, the Carolina 440 UHF Link System, IRLP (East Coast Reflector 9219), and HF.

In addition to two Kenwood dual-band radios already at the NWS, Dave Roy brought his Yaesu FT 857 and Rod Thomson brought his ICOM 751. Antennas included a Carolina Windom 80 and an inverted V for the latter two radios.

Our final statistics...

40 Meters	47 Contacts
20 Meters	22 Contacts
2 Meters	23 Contacts
UHF	16 Contacts
IRLP	61 Contacts
Total	169 Contacts (including duplicates)
Total NWS	37
Total Points Earned	42
Certificate Earned	Nor'easter



Although band conditions were not very good, contacts were made throughout the day with hams in 36 states, Puerto Rico, Canada, and as far away as Estonia!


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SKYWARN Recognition Day 2007

(Continued from page 5)

A special note of thanks goes to our radio operators: NWS Meteorologist-in-Charge Darin Figurskey KC2IPY, NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX, NWS Meteorologist Intern Brandon Dunstan KI4ZCX, Dave Roy W4DNA, Rod Thomson KI4LSN, Jim McRight KB4BZ, Bob Woodson WX4MMM, Philip Jones KG4IVD, Jacob Gore KI4PYO, Robin Lane KI4LEC, Steve Ferrarini KJ4BX, Lilly Ferrarini KC4AYH, and Virginia Enzor NC4VA.

Thanks to all who participated and made contacts with us!



SKYWARN Recognition Day
December 1, 2007

Central Carolina SKYWARN

WX4NC confirming QSO with:


DATE: _____

UTC: _____


FREQUENCY MHZ: _____

2-WAY MODE: _____

RST: _____



National Weather Service
1005 Capability Drive
Suite 300
Centennial Campus
Raleigh, NC 27606



PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE RALEIGH NC
1033 PM EDT FRI SEP 14 2007

...NUMEROUS TORNADOES TOUCH DOWN ACROSS CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA...

ON THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 14TH AS TROPICAL MOISTURE STREAMED NORTH AHEAD OF THE REMNANTS OF HUMBERTO THE ENVIRONMENT OVER CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA BECAME SUPPORTIVE OF BRIEF TORNADO DEVELOPMENT. THE TORNADOES ALL DEVELOPED ALONG A STATIONARY FRONT AND MOVED EAST AND NORTHEAST.

THE FOLLOWING WERE CONFIRMED TORNADOES...

HARNETT COUNTY... A BRIEF TORNADO TOUCHED DOWN ONE MILE NORTH OF LILLINGTON IN THE RIVER BLUFF DEVELOPMENT ON SOUTH RIVER ROAD. NUMEROUS TREES WERE KNOCKED DOWN IN THE AREA. THE TORNADO TOUCHED DOWN AGAIN BRIEFLY AT 620 PM JUST NORTHEAST OF LILLINGTON.

JOHNSTON COUNTY...THREE TORNADOES TOUCHED DOWN IN

A QSL card was specially designed for this event. Stations who logged a contact with WX4NC may send a SASE to the following address to receive one:



National Weather Service
Raleigh Forecast Office
1005 Capability Drive, Suite 300
Centennial Campus
Raleigh, North Carolina 27606

Left: Virginia Enzor NC4VA logs QSOs for Jeff Orrock KI4KKX on 20 meters.

(Continued on page 7)

SKYWARN Recognition Day 2007



(Continued from page 6) Clockwise from top left: Dave Roy W4DNA and Robin Lane KI4LEC “search and pounce” on stations at National Weather Service offices on 40 meters. Jacob Gore KI4PYO works local spotters on 2 meters while Jeff Orrock and Bob Woodson WX4MMM work stations across the country on IRLP. Bob Woodson orients Lillian Ferrarini KC4AYH and Steve Ferrarini KJ4BX on SRD procedures. Phillip Jones KG4IVD and Jim McRight KB4BZ work 20-meter stations.

General Meeting - December 2007

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for December 2007

The general meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on December 4, 2007 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail. Members gathered and shared holiday refreshments and a few minutes of fellowship prior to the official start of the meeting.

President Selene Montgomery KG4RMT called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. She welcomed all of those present at the meeting and thanked everyone for the holiday goodies brought for tonight's festivities.

Selene KG4RMT advised that the minutes from the November meeting were posted in the *Exciter*. She asked if any corrections were needed and received no comments.

Greg Seamster KE4PAX provided the Treasurer's report. There are 226 RARS members. He also reminded members that our club dues are tax deductible.

Announcements:

- The January general meeting will not be held on January 1 due to the New Year's holiday. Members should anticipate the meeting being rescheduled for Tuesday, January 8. We still need approval from the church before making the new date official. Stay tuned to the 8 pm nets and RARS webpage for more information.
- The next RARS dinner will be on Tuesday, December 11 at 6:30 pm at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue. All are invited to attend.
- The December Board meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held on the third Tuesday of January at 7 pm. All are invited to attend.
- Hamfests: Tickets and tables are now available for the Richmond Frostfest and Charlotte hamfest. Details can be found on the web.

Hank Montgomery K4HM reported to the group that RARSfest 2008 will now take place on Saturday, April 12 at the NC State Fairgrounds. This date is different from what had been previously announced and advertised. Please spread the word about the change. Also, contact Hank if you would like to volunteer to help with the hamfest.

Chuck Littlewood K4HF was given the floor to officiate the installation of the elected officers, Board members and chairpersons. The following members were asked to stand at the front of the room when their office and term were announced:

(Continued on next page.)

General Meeting - December 2007

Officers (2-year term)

- President – Selene Montgomery KG4RMT
- Secretary – Charles Swindell WB4DCM

Board Members (1-year term)

- Public Information Officer – Gary Pearce KN4AQ
- RARS 2008 Hamfest Chair – Hank Montgomery K4HM
- RARS *Exciter* Editor – Courtney Enzor KI4HOS
- RARS Net Manager – Mary Holtschneider KG4OQA
- Public Service – John Snellen AI4RT
- At-Large Director – Steve Ferrarini KJ4BX
- At-Large Director – Rod Thomson KI4LSN
- At-Large Director – Ken McEwen KI4OTO
- FM Repeater Chair – Gary Pearce KN4AQ
- W4DW / W4RNC Trustee – Jeff Wittich AC4ZO
- ARRL Liaison – Chuck Littlewood K4HF
- Education Director – Virginia Enzor NC4VA

Committee Chairmen (1-year term)

- RARS 2008 Field Day Chair – Neal Fisher N4HAF
- RARS Volunteer Exam Coordinators – Liz White KO4CK and Joe White WA4GIR
- RARS Hospitality Chair – Mary Jo Littlewood K4MJL
- RARS Webmaster – Steve Worley KB4HDQ

The members then took their oath of office.

The following visitors were recognized and welcomed to the meeting: The Encore Singers, George Herring, Donald Herring, Louise Horton, Robin Mentha KJ4ANQ, Sara Lauer, Allan Lauer, Mary Powell and Kay Fore.

The door prize was won by Virginia Enzor NC4VA.

Rick Kelly-Crapse KB4TKQ presented a member of the Encore Singers with a donation from our club. He then introduced the group which provided a fun evening of holiday musical entertainment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Attendance: 52

Submitted by Dick Orander KD4ISC, RARS Secretary



The **RARS Technical & Trader's net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.

Amateur Radio Nets



The **VOIP Hurricane net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Costal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

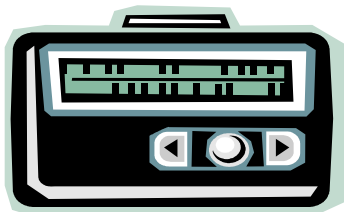


CAROLINA 440
UHF Link System
www.carolina440.net

Join us every evening at 8 pm on the 146.64 repeater for the **RARS Two Meter net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcomed to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 pm on the 146.88. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check-in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 machine with a PL tone of 82.5.





Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG)** net on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

Upcoming CCS Information nets include:

January 8: "Radio Check Night" on the Carolina 440 backup frequencies.

January 22: "NWS News and Updates" with NWS Meteorologist-in-Charge Darin Figsrkey KC2IPY.



The **Wake County ARES** net meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. www.wakeares.org.

The Mercury Amateur Radio Association Southeast 2 Meter Net

meets at 9 pm Sunday evenings on the 146.64 repeater (temporarily). All stations are invited to participate in this net. MARA provides emergency communication support to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The purpose of this net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet.



The RARS

Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc
PO Box 17124
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
RALEIGH, NC
PERMIT NO. 2130

Public Service Opportunities

Start the new year off right by serving your community. If you're looking for information about upcoming public service opportunities, the Carolina Helping Hams can help you find volunteer events.

Check out the Carolina Helping Hams site today!

www.hampublicservice.org

RARSFest 2008

Mark your calendars! The 36th annual RARSFest will be held on Saturday, April 12th. That's right – a Saturday hamfest! For more information, visit www.rars.org/hamfest/.